

The State Bar of California

2011 Fee Scaling

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers (FAQs)

- What are the criteria for fee scaling?

Any active member who can demonstrate *total gross annual individual income from all sources of less than \$40,000* may qualify for a 25 percent reduction in his or her annual membership fee.

- How do I determine my total gross annual individual income?

Calculate your estimated total individual gross earnings for 2010. This would be the total income (not adjusted gross income) listed on your federal tax return. Total income is listed on line 22 of Form 1040, line 15 of Form 1040A, and line 6 of Form 1040EZ. These were the applicable lines on the 2009 tax forms. Since the 2010 tax forms are not yet available, the total income line numbers may change; however, the income items used to calculate gross income will remain the same.

- Could my spouse's income affect my eligibility for fee scaling?

It depends. Do not include your spouse's wages and salary in the calculation of your total gross annual individual income. However, you must include 50 percent of any joint income (interest, dividends, business income, rent and royalties, for example) when determining your total income. You will be required to submit a fee scaling declaration with your annual fee statement by mail or online. And you may be required to provide further documentation to the State Bar, if requested, to verify your eligibility.

The State Bar will conduct a random audit of scaling applications during the billing year and applicants may be required to submit tax forms and other proof of financial condition.

- Can I qualify for fee scaling if I'm on inactive status for part of 2011?

You must be on active status as of February 1, 2011 to qualify for fee scaling.

- What is the deadline for scaling?

Payment must be received by the State Bar of California or U.S. postmarked no later than February 1, 2011 to qualify under the fee scaling criteria.

- Do I need to sign a fee scaling declaration?

The fee scaling declaration is included online for members who pay using [My State Bar Profile](#). Any other form of payment will require that a printed, signed declaration be mailed to the State Bar. (The form can be found on the bar's Web site. Go to Member Services, then to Forms - listed under Member Information).

Payment of appropriate annual fees must be included with the Fee Scaling declaration and received by the State Bar of California or U.S. postmarked no later than February 1, 2011.

If you have any additional questions, please call the Member Services Center at 1-888-800-3400.